

Histy. of Netherlands &c.
AN
AUTHENTIC HISTORY
Of the LATE
REVOLUTION
AT
AMSTERDAM. *K*

COMPREHENDING

A succinct ACCOUNT of the Rise, Progress, and Principles of the contending Parties in *Holland*; the true Source of the Discontent of the Burghers of *Amsterdam* against their Magistrates; the Characters and Conduct of those who were at the Head of this Design, and the Steps taken to bring it to bear; interspersed throughout with Letters, Speeches, Placarts, &c. taking in all that passed to the Time of the Prince Stadtholder's leaving the City September 15, 1748.

Nullum ornamentum Principis fastigio dignius pulchriusque est, quam illa corona OB CIVES SERVATOS.
SENEC. de Clement.

L O N D O N,

Printed for M. COOPER, at the *Globe in Paternoster Row*. M DCC XLVIII.

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Museum Historico-Principis Regis Augusti
Bibliotheca, quæ hunc librum continet, non
est de Censura.

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IT is the just Observation of a certain *Spanish* Writer, that the true Reason why the Histories of late Times are so ill written, is that few give themselves the Trouble to record what passes under their own Eyes, from a Notion that what happens in their own Times is trivial, and of little Importance in Comparison of what fell out an Age or two ago; and thus by an unaccountable Weakness even the best Writers employ their Pains in composing Works upon Subjects, where the Materials lye in a great Measure out of their Reach, where it is impossible for

together B them

them to promise themselves Certainty, and where Impartiality and Industry, the two great Qualities of an Historian, are very frequently of little Use. Whereas if Men would content themselves with transmitting to Posterity just and fair Relations of what themselves might with very little Trouble examine to the Bottom, and be able to set in a clear Light, whatever Reception their Works met with in their Lifetimes, from the Prevalence of the Passions and Prejudices of their Contemporaries, they would certainly both merit and receive the Thanks of Posterity, and themselves be regarded as Friends to Truth, to the Interest of Society, and to the Welfare of Mankind.

One may very safely affirm that the Changes which have lately happened in the United Provinces, are in themselves singular enough; exclusive of the Interest we have in them, to deserve the Notice of a Person capable to set them in a clear and just Point of View; and yet there is no doubt that they will be hereafter written in a Manner quite different from this, and the principal Facts ascribed to Motives al-

together

together wide of those that really produced them. I heartily wish that it was as much in my Power, as in my Will, to lay the whole of these Transactions before the Reader, and to shew him by what Steps a Prince who but two Years ago was thought to have not the least Prospect of obtaining those Honours which have been worthily enjoyed by his Family, which many thought due to his Birth, and which those, who had the best Opportunity of knowing him, believed much more due to his Merit; was of a sudden by the propitious Assistance of Heaven, and the Voice of a great Majority of his Countrymen, exalted far beyond what his own Party hoped, what his best Friends could expect, or what his most embittered Enemies figured to themselves from their Fears.

But as this lies out of my Reach I content myself with a bare Hint of it, and even that I should hardly have given if it had not been necessarily introductive to the Subject I undertake to handle, which is the Change that has in a few Weeks been brought to pass in the City of *Amsterdam*. A Change which I am very sensible must

be attended with Consequences of great Importance, as this City gives the Example to the whole Province of *Holland*, in the very same Manner that the Measures pursued therein affect the other six Provinces, which together with it form the Republick of the *United Netherlands*. A Change altogether as unexpected as the Restitution of the Stadtholdership to the Family of *Nassau*, and brought about too by Means in every Respect as surprizing; so that whoever will consider this History as it shall be truly and impartially penned, will find that I have not over-rated it, but that it deserves as much to be committed to Paper, and secured for the Consideration of the next Generation, as any thing that has fallen out within the Compass of our Memories.

But previous to my Narrative of the Rise and Progress of a Design which has been crowned with such unexpected Success, it will be requisite to give the Reader a concise Account of the Rise of those two Parties that started up almost as soon as this Republick was formed, and are like to continue as long as it subsists. It will be

be no less necessary to give a short Description of the civil Government of *Amsterdam*, for without that no Stranger could possibly comprehend the Grounds of this Dispute; and it will be likewise proper to shew how favourable the Juncture was when this Scheme was laid, as that is a Circumstance which contributed at least as much as any other to the good Fortune it has met with, and prevented those untoward and calamitous Circumstances with which at any other time an Attempt of this Sort must inevitably have been attended.

When a succinct Account has been given of these several leading Points, I shall proceed to a fair and just Representation of the Project as it was originally formed, the true Characters of the principal Actors therein, the several steps taken to bring it about, the powerful Opposition it met with, the very indifferent Opinion which the wisest among the Wellwishers to this Scheme had of its being brought to bear, the lucky Accidents which facilitated its Progress, and the easy and quiet Reception it obtained at last, without the Effusion of a single Drop of Blood, or the distressing

stressing any Citizen in his Person or Pocket.

The two Parties or Factions beforementioned, are generally called in *Holland*, the *Orange* and the *Louvestein*, for Reasons that will presently appear. After the Death of *William Henry I.* Prince of *Orange*, which happened in 1584, the States, at the Instance of the Grand Pensionary, *John Barnevelt*, made choice of his Son Prince *Maurice*, then a Youth of fifteen, and a Student at *Leyden* to succeed him. He is said to have returned this Obligation to *Barnevelt* very ill, by causing him to be tried and condemned as an Enemy to his Country, for opposing a Design he had formed of becoming its Sovereign. However that Matter might be, the Dispute between this Prince and that Statesman produced these Factions, for the Death of *Barnevelt* was so far from extinguishing his Party, that it proved the main Support of it; those who were of the same Sentiments, making use of that general Compassion shewn by the People on the melancholy Occasion, of bringing to the Scaffold a Man bending under the Weight of Years, and of the Fatigues he had under-

went

went in the Service of his Country, to give a Sanction to his Principles. This Faction, which continued increasing during the Administration of Prince *Frederick Henry*, who succeeded his Brother Prince *Maurice*, grew to such a Height under the Government of Prince *William II.* his Son and Successor, that he judged it necessary for his own Preservation and the publick Tranquillity, to secure the Heads of it in the Castle of *Louvestein*, whence such as abetted their Opinions received and gloried in that Name.

Upon the Death of Prince *William II.* which happened in the Year 1650. in Appearance without an Heir, for his Son *William III.* was not born till after his Decease, the *Louvestein* Party came into Power, and in a very short Time possessed themselves intirely of the Government. When I say they possessed themselves of it, I would be understood to mean that they filled by Degrees all Posts of Honour, Trust, and Profit, with those of their own Party, excluding such as were well affected to the Family of *Orange*, notwithstanding that Numbers of them had served their Country with equal Fidelity and Reputation. This produced here what

it has ever produced in all Countries, where any Thing of the like Kind has happened, that is to say, Jealousies, Heats, and Animosities, equally destructive of private Peace and publick Welfare. Those in Power treated such as they had excluded, as if they had been Enemies to their Country, and those that were oppressed, regarded all in Possession of Employments, not as their legal Governors, but as so many Tyrants, who violated those Laws they pretended to administer.

At this Juncture the Republick was at its greatest Height in respect to Power, to Wealth, and Reputation, and this tempted the great Men then at the Head of Affairs, to signalize their Administration, by entering into a War with *England*, which was suddenly become a Republick also. What they hoped would have added Strength and Fame to that Authority of which they were just become Masters, had the quite contrary Effect, for it exhausted their naval Power, and by its unfortunate Issue lessened their Credit extremely. This they ascribed to the Disaffection of some Officers they were obliged to employ, and to the Contagion of their

their Principles amongst the Seamen, which acquired some Degree of Probability, by their managing with much better Success a second War with that Nation, after the Restoration of its Monarchy; and when the *Louvestein* Faction employed none but their own Creatures. Their good Fortune however, as it made them insolent, so it rendered them hated; for though *John de Witt*, who was at the Head of Affairs, lived very modestly, and acted with great Moderation, yet his Brother *Cornelius*, though a brave and able Man, had such a Tincture of Vanity, and conducted every Thing with such an *Eclat*, as raised the Envy of the better Sort as much as it excited the Jealousy and Aversion of the Populace.

The Situation of their Affairs, and the extraordinary Power of *Louis XIV.* made it necessary for the Governors of the Republick to court him, which though they sometimes did, yet such was the haughty Spirit of their Administration, that by a wanton Display of what they took to be the Effects of their Wisdom and Fortune, they provoked that ambitious Monarch to enter into a Confederacy which aimed at no

less than the Destruction of the Republick. This produced the Invasion of 1672, and as that appeared to the People as the mere Effects of the ostentatious Pride of their Rulers, it brought about a sudden and in some Respects a bloody Revolution; the two *De Witts* being murdered by the Mob, the *Louvestein* System entirely dissolved, and *William III.* Prince of *Orange*, by the Abolition of the perpetual Edict, restored to the high Offices which his Ancestors had discharged with so much Glory. The great Courage and Prudence with which he conducted that War, and extricated his Country from Difficulties very little inferior to those against which his Great Grandfather struggled, procured to him the stable Possession of those Honours which the Inclinations of his Countrymen had bestowed, and fixed his Authority upon a firm as well as legal Basis.

When that great Prince raised himself to the Throne of the *British* Dominions, he still retained the Dignity of Stadtholder, which in case he had been blessed with Children, was before that Time declared hereditary; but wanting this Support, and
being

being obliged to be often absent, his Power was notwithstanding diminished, while in outward Appearance it was at its greatest Height. The Remains of the *Louvestein* Faction, partly by Compliance, and partly by dint of the great Interest of their Families, crept again into Employments; so that at the Demise of King *William*, they became once more in some Measure Masters, and being taught Prudence and Moderation by Adversity, strengthened themselves imperceptibly, and at length settled their Sway upon a much broader Foundation than it had ever stood before.

It is not known to many People, but the Matter of Fact is nevertheless true, that the protracting the last general War, and the continual Opposition given by the Field Deputies of the States to the Duke of *Marlborough*, more especially at his first Entrance upon his Command of the Army of the Allies, was owing entirely to this State of Things. The *Louvestein* Faction were afraid that if either a Battle should be lost, or their Troops removed at any Distance from their Frontiers, the Inhabitants of the great Cities would discover that Dis-
like

like which they knew they bore to their Proceedings. The happy Progress of that War made them easier by Degrees, more especially after the unfortunate Death of his Serene Highness the Prince of *Orange* and *Nassau*, Father to the present Stadtholder, who was drowned in his Passage at *Moredyk*, July 14, 1711, as he was coming to the *Hague* to settle all Points in Difference between the King of *Prussia* and himself, in Relation to the Succession of the late King *William III.* the Prince being Heir by Will, and the King by Descent.

By this unfortunate Accident in so critical a Season, when the Claims of the House of *Orange* descended a second Time to a posthumous Child, the Steps taken to support them were rendered abortive, and at the same time it ruined in a manner all the Hopes of those who were either attached by Inclination, or connected by their Circumstances to that House. The dominant Party taking the Advantage therefore of this favourable Opportunity, exerted their utmost Skill and Power in disposing of all Places in such a Manner as might render them for ever secure, and prevent so much
as

as a Glimmering of a Recovery to their Opponents, in which, if they did not act as worthy Citizens, they certainly behaved wisely upon party Principles, and for some Years their Scheme was attended with all the Success they could wish; as is generally the Case till party Success turns upon itself.

But it is now necessary to apply what has been said, and to give the Reader an Idea of the Consequence of this History to our present Subject. There is nothing so natural to the Heart of Man as to suffer his private and particular Interests to get the better of his general Obligations, and, as in the present Case, the prevailing Party had already sacrificed the Respect due to the publick to the Support of their Faction, so it was very natural for them to let this give Way to their domestick Views, in which they were so much the more ready, as they looked upon themselves to be now thoroughly fixed, and under no farther Necessity of keeping any Measures whatever.

In this State Things continued for many Years, and this Continuance encouraged such as were masters of Power to believe it
a Thing

a Thing inherent to them, that they had an exclusive Right to enjoy it; and that whoever sought to rise without their Consent, though he sought it in ever so honourable a Manner, was to be regarded as a publick Enemy. A Man might be learned, industrious and rich, might live in what Manner he would, build Palaces, set up Equipages, keep Assemblies, or even Operas in his own House unmolested; but if such a Man lived frugally, was kind to his poor Neighbours, and took Pains to be acquainted with the better Sort, at the same time he was held in Suspicion; and if he attempted to get into the Magistracy, he was accounted a dangerous Man. These Apprehensions, grounded upon the known Discontents of the common People, had such an Effect upon the Grandees, that instead of regarding the Welfare and Spirit of the Republick, they studied only to preserve it in Peace, and this because they saw plainly that whenever War was declared or entered into against any Enemy, but against *France* more especially, it would sooner or later make a Breach in their System through which the Stadtholder would certainly enter, and bring in his Friends with

with him, which they dreaded as much as the last Day.

I may safely appeal to the History of *Europe* in general, and to that of this Republick in particular, for the Proof of what I say. Treaty after Treaty was made for the Sake of preserving or rather patching up of Peace, the military Establishment was suffered to run into great Disorder, their naval Power dwindled extreamly, and in short every Thing sunk except Taxes, Debts, and the private Fortunes of these great Rulers and their Friends. By this means it came to pass that in a short time it was no Secret, the Strength of the State was greatly declined, she was in no Condition to undertake any Thing extraordinary to deliver her out of this Plight, but rather obliged to attach herself some Way or other to her Neighbours, so as to be sure of Support, and to be out of Danger of taking up Arms. Yet even in these Circumstances there wanted not Men bold enough to profess themselves Patriots, to compare the present Condition of the Republick with the past, and to testify their Wishes, that the Face of Affairs might change so as to resemble

what

what they were in former Times. In 1722 the States of *Guelders* chose the Prince of *Orange* their Stadtholder, notwithstanding all the Opposition that could be given to that Measure by the Province of *Holland*; and this alarmed the prevailing Party excessively. They saw that this would give Life and Spirit to the Patriots, and that as his Serene Highness grew up, and displayed upon all Occasions the hereditary Virtues of his Family, the Number of his Adherents would encrease, and those who disliked their Management would not be without a Head, as has been the Case for many Years, and this heightened their Aversion to every Thing that had the least Appearance of Vigour, or of Spirit, at the same Time it drove them into that Complaisance for a certain powerful Neighbour which was so detrimental to the true Interests of *Europe*.

When in spite of all their Care, and after a long Series of temporizing and negotiating they found themselves obliged to take a Part in the present War, their Conduct was so fluctuating and irregular, that it gave no small Dissatisfaction to both Parties.

Parties. On the one hand the Allies knew not how to depend upon them, and on the other hand, notwithstanding all the Service they rendered to the *French* by their Fickleness and Irresolution, they also were at a Loss how to deal with them. In the first Place they tried by the Intrigues of *Fenelon* and his Successor to engage them in a Neutrality, to which they shewed at once an Inclination and a Reluctance. The former was the Effects of the true Spirit of their Government, which was to take care of themselves and let what would become of the rest of the World; the latter proceeded from their Fear; for it was now evident enough that the People abhorred so dishonourable a Measure, and were inclined to hazard any thing rather than sink into so shameful a State of Dependance on that Power, which of all others they had most reason to fear.

To bring the Matter therefore to some Issue, the *French* Court took the Resolution of making use of Force, and this induced them to transfer the War into the *Low-Countries*, and to attack the Barrier, which certainly was no Part of their ori-

ginal Design, and which neither could, nor has contributed much to the facilitating their Views. In this Invasion they had all the Success they could desire in the Field, but none at all in the great Point of the Neutrality, which by this time was become more difficult and more dangerous for these great Statesmen to conclude, since their System was now thoroughly manifest; and from the strange Manner in which the War had been conducted, their Forces so much weakened, that they were as little able to impose by Violence upon their Subjects, as to oppose their Enemies. In the mean time the length of the War grew insupportable to the *French*, and they found themselves under an absolute Necessity of coming to Extremities, and trying what might be done by falling upon the Territories of the States, which hitherto had been respected. There is but too much Cause to believe that this was not altogether unforeseen in *Holland*; and the *French* Generals, from the natural Insolence and Impetuosity of that Nation, made so little a Secret of the Expectations of their Court when they fell upon *Dutch Flanders*, that the Populace, who had long before

fore opened their Eyes, were tempted by Despair to open their Mouths too, and to declare in plain Terms against the Government that either by Connivance or Contrivance had sacrificed them.

The only Expedient they could have recourse to, was setting up his Serene Highness the Prince of *Orange and Nassau* for Stadtholder, and therefore there is no kind of Wonder that they had recourse to it ; but however the Spirits of the Nation were sunk to such a Degree, that whatever Figure the Mobs might make in the Gazettes that brought this important Event about, I can affirm that they were in themselves very inconsiderable, and that two or three good Troops of Horse might have dispersed them with great Ease. The Reader must have a care of conceiving from hence, that those who wished well to this Revolution were only the Dregs of the People, for there is nothing less true ; but those who wished well to it contented themselves with those Wishes, and were afraid to give any publick Signs of their Satisfaction 'till it became dangerous not to do it, and then seeing the Strength of their

own Party, they were amazed it had not been brought about long before. Yet they suffered themselves to be imposed upon by Appearances, and to believe that the Facility with which this great Change had been instantaneously produced, was a good Omen of its proving as effectual as they could desire it; and therefore either from a Return of Indolence, or an unreasonable Timidity of acting against those to whom they had so long submitted, they left the Accomplishment of this great Work to the Populace who had begun it.

It is very certain that if these poor People had known as well how to go about their Affairs, as they knew what they would have been at, they would have performed the whole Business of a Reformation to a Miracle; and as it was they procured those Resolutions which have been the Basis of all that has been done since, and which will in the End become the fundamental Principles of the *Belgick* Liberty, either by a Restoration of the old Constitution, or the constructing it anew. But how upright soever their Intentions might be, the boisterous Manner in which they pursued

pursued them was manifestly inconsistent
 with any kind of Government ; and there-
 fore instead of countenancing them the
 Prince- Stadtholder found himself under a
 Necessity of restraining them. This very
 necessary Step had two very unlucky Con-
 sequences ; the first, that it encouraged the
 fallen Party to form new Schemes ; and
 the next, that it not only damped the Spi-
 rits of the Populace, but induced those
 who secretly approved their Proceedings, to
 suspect that Things would take another
 new Turn, and that the old Faction would
 avail themselves of the Stadtholder's Au-
 thority. These Notions floating in Peo-
 ple's Heads, produced for some Time a
 Confusion that no Words can describe, and
 of which it is impossible that any should
 form an Idea, except those who saw and
 observed its Effects. By Degrees all Ranks
 of People returned to their original Senti-
 ments ; the Patrons of the old System found
 themselves rather frightened than hurt ; they
 were still in the quiet Possession not only of
 their private Fortunes, but of their Posts
 in the Government, and this tempted them
 to make their utmost Efforts to procure
 such a Countenance to their former Pro-
 ceedings,

ceedings, as might make it appear both at Home and Abroad, that what they did was with the Consent of the Nation. While they had this great Point in View, they forgot the Promises which they had made the People in the beginning of the current Year, and to the Performance of which they expected it would be impossible to call them, on the Score of a very dangerous Distemper with which his Serene Highness was then afflicted, the Issue of which being very doubtful itself, kept the Hopes of some and the Fears of others in Suspence; by which, as the domestick Oeconomy of the Republick suffered exceedingly, so it is to be feared the common Cause met with irreparable Damage by the Neglect of the War, as important in its Consequences, as in its Nature it was just.

Human Policy may be compared to the Image of *Janus*, the Eyes in the Head that look backward being infinitely better than those that respect present or future Events. It is very certain that good Patriots at this Juncture were under violent Apprehensions; and I dare say there was not a single Man in
Holland

Holland that foresaw the Consequences of this dull and indolent Supineness at a Season that required the utmost Activity, as well as the greatest Circumspection. It had however good Effects, for the People's Patience being quite wore out, and no Sign of the Performance of what had been promised them, they resumed the Work of Reformation, and resolved to demolish the Farms. When once this Humour broke out it spread like Wild-Fire, Publicans were ever hated in all Countries and by all Nations, that is, those who spoil their Neighbours under Colour of executing the Laws, but in reality to enrich themselves. This was plainly and undeniably the Case of the Farmers, from the biggest to the least, and whatever Authorities they might derive from the Laws, there is no doubt that their Insolence, their Luxury, and their Profusion was their own, and for these they were punished.

One would have imagined that the shortest and most natural Way of putting a Stop to these Disorders, had been to have complied with the Promises made to the People in the Month of *January*, and this

was the very Method to which the Magistrates in some Cities were inclined to have Recourse ; but the Lovers of the old System, who could not bear the Thoughts of losing the Farms and the Farmers, which afforded at once a large Revenue, and a numerous Militia interposed, cancelled the publick Acts of those Magistrates, and endeavoured to maintain as essential to the Government what was become an insupportable Burthen upon the People, towards which they made a very free Use of his Serene Highness's Name, endeavouring to cover their own Measures behind his Titles. This tho' well contrived, proved but a very feeble Expedient. Weak and infirm as his Highness was, he shewed the true Spirit and generous Resolutions of his illustrious Family, he came in Person and offered that Proposition, which gave new Life to the Republick, by shewing the Plan upon which he meant to proceed, and that he was in earnest resolved to put the Government upon its old and right Foundation, the Love, the Fidelity and Confidence of all its Subjects.

But

But however wise, however prudent, however just, however reasonable, and however kind and tender his Serene Highness's Sentiments might be, they could not bring over those who thought them contrary to their particular Interests, and therefore forgetting that Oppression will make wise Men mad, and much more the common and vulgar Sort of People, they by an ill-timed Exertion of their Authority and a preposterous Affectation of supporting it by Severity, increased those Suspicions that were already but too strong, of their aiming at the Revival or rather Continuance of that System which they had ever abetted. As they gave a very signal Instance of this at *Amsterdam*, it engaged the Inhabitants of that City, of all Ranks and Degrees, in the Consideration of the Consequences that must attend the suffering Things to remain longer in so unsettled a Condition, and produced a strong Desire in all those who wished well to the Prosperity of the Publick in general, and to the Welfare of that great, opulent and trading City in particular, to see things brought to some kind of Settlement; that they might know what they had to depend

pend upon for their Life-time, and in what Circumstances they were to leave their Posterity. They had heard much of the Freedom of their Country, and this was continually preached to them as an Argument that ought to make them easy under immense Expences which they were continually at, for preserving this nominal Freedom of which they never tasted.

To make this clear we must take a View of the Constitution of the City, the Nature of its Regency, the Offices of its principal Magistrates, the Extent of their Authority, and the Manner in which they were chosen ; for without a perfect and distinct Knowledge of these Things, it is impossible to frame a right Judgment on the Merits of this Cause, and to distinguish between the contending Parties, who were in the right and who were in the wrong ; how far the Complainants had a Claim to be relieved, and in what Respects there was a Danger of bringing in new Inconveniences, and another kind of Oppression, under Colour of redressing the past, and preventing the like in time to come. In order to this it might be both entertaining and instructive

instructive if we should ascend beyond the Limits of the present Age, and take a View of the ancient Privileges of the Inhabitants of the *Dutch* Cities, those that were particularly granted to *Amsterdam* when it became a City, the Manner in which they have been changed, and the Consequences which those Changes have produced ; but this would take up a great deal of Time, tho' I cannot say they would lead us beyond the Limits of our present Enquiry, but we will confine ourselves to the present Times and take things as they stand.

The supreme Magistrates in *Amsterdam*, are the *Hoff Schout* and the four Burgomasters, who, with the Council or Senate of thirty-six, have the intire Direction and Management of publick Affairs ; that is to say, they either have in their own Possession all the great Offices, or have the bestowing them upon others ; they dispense Justice in civil and criminal Cases, in the latter without Appeal ; they have the sole Right to decide what Money is wanting, after what Manner it shall be raised, and how it shall be laid out. The Regent Burgomaster for the Time being has the Dispo-

Disposition of the Places that fall while he is in that Office, and such an Influence this Body of People have had, that though some Shadow of Freedom was reserved in the Choice of the Officers of the Militia, yet the Field Officers have been generally of the Regency, and are by this Means Masters of the Lives, Properties, and military Strength of the Citizens, which they may dispose at their Pleasure, without Fear of being called to an Account, since the Counsellors are for Life ; and when Death makes any Vacancy, it is filled up by themselves ; so that when once a Regency is formed, there is nothing easier than to keep it, and to prevent any Man getting into it who has not the strongest Recommendations to that Post, by his Connections with those who have set in that Senate before ; whence we may readily apprehend, that the Stuff these People are made of, is intirely of one Colour.

It is very easy to discern, even from this short Description, in which all the essential Points are contained, that the Government of *Amsterdam* was a direct Oligarchy ; and indeed the same Thing might be said of many

many other Places, and some other great Assemblies in the Province. The Reader cannot now be at a Loss to learn either how the old System was supported, why it outlived the Choice of a Stadtholder, or what put the People in Fear, that it might resume in a short Time its former Force, as they plainly saw that its old Temper was not in the least changed. He will likewise find no great Difficulty in penetrating the Cause why the Regency had a considerable Party, such as are in Possession of Power, and have the Disposition of Offices, can never want it ; neither will it be any longer a Mystery, why some of the richest Families, and some of the worthiest Men in the City were not eager in resenting their Exclusion from Offices, which however they would have been proud of obtaining, because People in easy Circumstances, and Persons naturally of a quiet Temper, are seldom busy in promoting Revolutions, for Fear of being made answerable for their Conduct, in case any Attempt, in which they imbark, should miscarry. The Reader having run over these Remarks in his own Mind, will enter, without the least Hesitation, into the remaining Part of this History, and see nothing in it

so

so marvellous and amazing as the Authors of certain *German* Gazettes have been pleased to represent it. There are some Writers who delight in Prodigy, and affect to set out every Thing in Terms of Surprize and Wonder ; for my Part, that have lived long in the World, I am past being amazed at any Thing, and therefore look upon it as the best Method of writing, to aim at the Discovery of the real Causes of Things, which, generally speaking, serves to destroy that Appearance of Miracle, which astonishes those who take only a superficial View of political Events.

After the great Disturbance about the Farmers was over, a certain Transaction happened, which, as it gave great Occasion of Distaste, so it opened the Mouths of Multitudes, who spoke their Sentiments very freely of the Servitude they were in, and of the Sense they had of that Yoke, from which, through the late Change in the Government, they were in Hopes of being absolutely delivered ; and though these Murmurs neither rose to the Height of Tumults on one Side, or settled into any rational or well formed Scheme on the other,

other, yet they served to discover the Sentiments of the greater Part of the Burghers, and to shew plainly, that if any attempted to set a Reformation on foot, they could hardly fail of Support. It was this that encouraged some active and enterprizing Persons to take into Consideration the Possibility of emancipating their fellow Citizens, and restoring the City of *Amsterdam* to that Weight and Figure she formerly had, by making all her Inhabitants Sharers of those Privileges and Immunities, to which they were entitled, as well by particular Laws, as by the general Constitution of the Republick.

Amongst these honest, well-meaning, and free spirited People, was one Mr. *Daniel Raap*, a considerable Dealer in China-ware, a Man no way distinguished by the Bulk of his Estate, by his Connections with potent Families, or by any other Kind of Influence than what arose from his general Character ; being a very honest Man, and a disinterested Patriot. He opened his Mind upon this Subject to Mr. *Jacob Huyter*, Mr. *Elias Chappen*, and some other of his Friends, who, like himself, were not

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either

either rich or potent, but at the same Time Persons of fair Character, and Men of Substance. As Mr. Raap, with a great deal of good Sense, has a very happy Talent in Expression, and is as well read as most Men in the History of his own Country, so he quickly gave his Friends true and right Notions of Things; shewed them what might be insisted upon with Reason, and where the general Notions of those who differed in Opinion from their Rulers, ran into Wildness and Chimera. He accustomed them to advance nothing that they could not prove, to foresee the Objections that might be made to their Demands, and to answer them fully and fairly in very modest and yet pathetic Terms with much Poignancy, but without any Mixture of Indecency. As these Discourses were very pleasant to them, and as by Degrees they introduced new Members into their little Assemblies, it was not long before Mr. Raap saw himself very much considered, which instead of making him vain, affected him rather with Melancholy, for he is none of those frothy Spirits that delight in fine speaking, and hearing the Applause of such as compose his Audience, but a Man of a sound Mind and solid

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Head,

Head, equally ready to hazard all for his Country's Service, and afraid of hazarding his Reputation without being able to render her any Service.

As soon therefore as he saw his Party was grown numerous enough to be thought so, and not a Cabal of rash and indiscreet People, he desired a general Meeting, at which he laid before them the Nature of his Design, which was to press the immediate Performance of what had been promised on certain capital Heads, which he shewed them could not fail of making Way for that thorough Reformation, which they so much desired. When he had done this, he told them, that he was so far from seeking or wishing an implicit Concurrence, that he hoped, and if he might be allowed the Expression, insisted upon hearing any Difficulty that could be started, with respect to the Scheme he had laid before them. He said, he was well aware, that many would be met with in the Execution of his Plan, that he had maturely revolved in his own Mind such as came into his Thoughts; but that he very well knew a Man was naturally partial to a Project of his own contriving;

triving; and therefore he begged it as the greatest Favour any of his Friends could do him, that they would take the other Side of the Argument upon this Occasion, and shew him freely and without Reserve, any Mistakes into which he had fallen ; adding, that it was much better to hear them from them than from his Enemies, and infinitely more expedient to consider them now, than when they were engaged beyond the Power of retreating.

This occasioned a very deep Silence amongst his little Senate, till at last one of the most knowing and considerable Persons present stood up, and after having commended the Frankness and fair Dealing of Mr. Raap, and assured him and his Friends that he wished as well to the Design as any of them, he proceeded to observe, that there were indeed many and great Objections, that might be offered against this Plan, which affected him so much the more, as he was very sensible, that a better Plan could not be contrived ; but it was a very weighty and important Design they had under Consideration, which they were sure would be opposed, not only by a very
extensive

extensive Influence, but by a very great Weight of real Power; that to encounter this it was necessary, they should have the Assistance or the Countenance at least, of a great many Persons of Figure and Fortune; and that though he knew no worthier Men, than those he then saw, yet he was sorry to say they were not such as he had described, and, as he thought, absolutely requisite to assist in conducting such an Affair; that the Times were very unsettled, and that they were far from being in the Secrets, either of the new Administration or the old; and therefore could never be sure, whether they were in the right Road, or acting for or against those, to whom they wished well; that how conscious soever the might be of the Uprightness of their own Intentions, and how certain soever it was, that their Intentions were agreeable to the true Interests of the Republick, and of the City, yet they might be liable to great Imputations; and that too many Instances might be given from other Countries, and their own, of true Patriots, being mistaken for, and treated as Traytors; that above all it seemed to be very doubtful, whether an Attempt of this Kind might not be so misrepresented,

presented, to an illustrious Person, as to appear prejudicial to his Interests or Authority, and so deprive them of the only Approbation they sought, and the single Protection, under which they could be safe; that for these Reasons he submitted it to them, whether it was prudent to proceed farther at this Juncture, or to continue silent Well-wishers to their City and Country, closing all with an Assurance, that he would concur with the Majority.

It is not in Words to describe the strange Influence that this Harangue, the Substance of which only I have given, had upon the Minds of almost every one present. From an Air of Liveliness and Spirit, that sat on every Face, when Mr. Raap had done speaking, there succeeded Looks of Cloudiness and Dejection, a profound Silence at first, but of short Continuance, and then broken Murmurs, of Difficulties not to be got over, Dangers it would be Madness to run, and the Risque there was in listening to Propositions, of such a Nature, how specious soever. Mr. Raap alone remained silent and calm, without the least Alteration in his Countenance, and as if he was attentive

tentive to any Thing, that might farther be offered. But when he perceived, that many were uneasy to be gone, and that some who expressed infinitely more Zeal than himself, were most forward to break up the Assembly, he took the Freedom to interpose, and to ask whether they thought he was mad enough to venture upon such a Proposal, without having considered the Consequences ; that he had heard nothing upon which he had not reflected before, and that if they pleased, he would acquaint them freely with the Result of his Meditations. This produced a little Bustle, but all was soon quiet again, and then with an Air of greater Boldness and Spirit than he had ever put on, he proceeded thus.

Countrymen, and Friends to your Country,

“ If the Fear of Danger were sufficient
 “ to fright Men from honest Purposes,
 “ no great or good Action would ever be
 “ atchieved. What Perils do not Thieves
 “ and Robbers affront for the Sake of
 “ Spoil ? And shall Avarice, or Thirst of
 “ Pleasure or Lust of any Kind, inspirit
 “ Men more than the Love of Virtue and

" Zeal for Liberty? That we shall be op-
 " posed is certain, for we met only to con-
 " sider the best Manner in which to con-
 " tend. That those who oppose us, are
 " Men of Power, of Influence and Wealth,
 " is true. But I bless God that I see none
 " such here! but Men of Honour, of
 " Probity, and who wish as well to their
 " Neighbours as themselves. What we
 " aim at is to shew this; for that we seek
 " for Honour, Preferment, or Profit, is a
 " Thing I never understood. Now I can-
 " not discern why, since we neither mean
 " to effect any Thing by Force, by Fraud,
 " or by Bribery, we should think ourselves
 " less able to go on, because there are not
 " Men of Power, of Influence, and of
 " Fortune amongst us. If such there
 " were, they might mislead, govern, and
 " perplex us; nay, they might make Tools
 " of and betray us; whereas our Equality,
 " and the Knowledge we have of each
 " other's Intentions, leave us no Room to
 " fear this, and therefore ought to encou-
 " rage us to proceed. Besides, shall we
 " believe, that amongst the Men of Fi-
 " gure and Fortune, there are none who
 " have as warm and as well-meaning In-
 " tentions

"entions as ourselves? Doubtless there are.
 "But their very Situation in Life hinders
 "them from seeking us, as our own Cir-
 "cumstances threw a Bar in our Way,
 "and prevented us from seeking them. But
 "if we declare ourselves like Men they will
 "join us, and we shall have them then, for
 "*Associates*, and not for *Masters*.

"Who knows not that the Times are
 "bad and unsettled? If they were not so our
 "Sentiments would not distinguish us from
 "the Herd of Mankind, and this Meeting
 "had never been called. We know not
 "the Secrets of any Faction, I confess, nor
 "do we mean to become a Faction our-
 "selves, we mean what is right and just,
 "and to combat what is not so. We can
 "do this without any great Degree of Po-
 "licy, for Men that mean well, stand in
 "no need either of secret Intelligence, or of
 "deep Cunning. If what we aim at is for
 "the publick Good, whatever Party means
 "that, will be for us, and when we con-
 "sider the late Change of our Government,
 "it would be thinking, not unworthily on-
 "ly, but falsely of our Countrymen, to
 "suppose that we have not amongst them

" ten Thousands of Friends. Can you ima-
 " gine that when the Peasants of *Zealand*
 " declared for a Stadtholder, they had taken
 " even so much thought as we? Do you
 " believe that they troubled themselves much
 " what Party they should provoke, or what
 " Party they should oblige? Nothing like
 " it. Yet they acted like wise and brave
 " Men, for they acted upon right Princi-
 " ples, and with that Spirit which the E-
 " mergency required. They saw their Coun-
 " try over-run by foreign Enemies, they
 " found the Government under which they
 " lived unable to protect them; upon
 " which, without despairing, and submit-
 " ting to become Slaves, they declared for
 " a Stadtholder who might protect them.
 " This Truth, once spoken aloud, did the
 " Business, for all Men love Truth, though
 " they dare not speak it; therefore take off
 " the Danger, or rather seem to take it off
 " by declaring what is Truth, and the
 " Friends of Truth will quickly appear so
 " numerous, as to put you really out of
 " Danger.

" What I have said is in Answer to an-
 " other great Objection, that we cannot
 " tell

“ tell how our Intentions will be taken, that
 “ the best Meanings may be misrepresent-
 “ ed, and that in this Country, as well as
 “ in others, true Patriots have been first
 “ called Traitors, and then treated as such.
 “ But my Friends, whence does all this
 “ proceed? Truly from nothing else but
 “ from Men’s betraying their own Cause by
 “ hiding and concealing it. This is the
 “ only Way that Truth can be injured, if
 “ Men who mean well will take the very
 “ same Measures that Men would take
 “ who meant ever so ill, they misrepresent
 “ themselves, or at least they afford their
 “ Enemies a Colour which countenances
 “ their Misrepresentations. For this very
 “ Reason I will never meet in private again.
 “ Our Affair is that of the Publick, our
 “ Assemblies therefore ought to be publick,
 “ let Conspirators hide themselves in Dens
 “ and Darkness, but let such as profess and
 “ know themselves to be Patriots seek
 “ the Light. We may be well thought a
 “ Cabal if we meet in secret, or consult in
 “ private; but when our Meetings and Pur-
 “ poses are open, there can be no such Im-
 “ putation, neither let us be in Pain about
 “ what we shall speak, or what others may
 “ speak

“ speak of us; if what we aim at is for the
 “ publick Good, the Design will speak for
 “ itself, and we shall either prevail and car-
 “ ry our Point with Honour, or if not it
 “ will be impossible to fix any Odium upon
 “ us, because we shall have a thousand Wit-
 “ nesses of our Innocence, and of the Up-
 “ rightness of our Intentions. Besides, we
 “ live in a Country governed by Laws, and
 “ as we mean not to subvert, but to support
 “ the Laws, it is impossible that the Laws
 “ should hurt us.

“ As to that illustrious Person under
 “ whose Protection alone we can be safe, it
 “ is the greatest Simplicity in the World to
 “ fear he should mistake our Meaning, if
 “ we once make the Publick sensible of
 “ what we mean. For my Part I have no
 “ Notion of that secret and reserved Tender-
 “ ness for any Family, how illustrious soever,
 “ which is not founded in an equal Regard
 “ for the publick Good. I love and I esteem
 “ the Prince as the Protector, Father, and
 “ Deliverer of his Country, and for this
 “ Reason I am confident that we may de-
 “ pend upon his Protection, if our Intenti-
 “ ons, and the Manner of explaining our
 “ Inten-

“ Intentions deserve it. He can have no
 “ Interests but those of his Country, and as
 “ all we aim at is the Service of our Coun-
 “ try, his Interests and ours are the same.
 “ He has delivered the Republick, we mean
 “ to deliver the City, there is no doubt
 “ therefore that he will espouse and support
 “ us; nor is it possible that he should aban-
 “ don or desert us unless we desert our
 “ selves.

“ For, my Friends, let me tell you one
 “ bold Truth, if we go not farther we have
 “ already gone too far. We have embrac-
 “ ed Sentiments directly opposite to those
 “ of our Governors; this is already too well
 “ known for us to be safe unless we pro-
 “ ceed. We must convince the World we
 “ are right, or it will be taken for granted
 “ that we are wrong. But let us do this in
 “ a legal Way, let us not cabal or conspire,
 “ neither let us run into Riots or rebel, we
 “ have a good Cause, and let us shew that
 “ we are conscious of having a good Cause,
 “ by acting like Men who have such a one,
 “ and then we need not fear the Issue.

“ To

" To silence all your Apprehensions, let
 " me give you these three Cautions; be sure
 " in the first Place of what you would be
 " at, state and settle your Demands accord-
 " ing to the Dictates of Justice, and the
 " Rules prescribed by the Laws, and then
 " though you should be overcome, you
 " can never be confounded, your very Ene-
 " mies will respect Justice so far as to be
 " content with Victory, and not think of
 " Revenge. Let the Methods you take to
 " obtain your Desires be consistent with Du-
 " ty and Decency, and they can never be
 " construed into Faction, Sedition, and Con-
 " spiracy. Shew yourselves good Men in
 " bad Times, and depend upon it the
 " Times will mend. Lastly, let me cauti-
 " on you against Intrigues, or waiting for
 " Instructions from the *Hague*. You have
 " no need of these, for our Regency may
 " redress our Grievances if they will, and
 " if they will redress them we need resort
 " no farther. If they will not, Redress need
 " not be sought, it will come of itself from
 " another Quarter. Believe me, the Reign
 " of Oppression is at an End, provided those
 " who are oppressed have the Courage to
 " speak. To say that we are a free Peo-
 " ple,

“ ple, are injured, and have no Right to
 “ complain, is to talk Nonsense ; to say
 “ that we have a Right, and we do not use
 “ it, is to accuse ourselves. On the whole,
 “ let us act as well as think, like wise and
 “ honest Men, and leave the rest to Provi-
 “ dence, which, if we distrust not, it will
 “ certainly conduct our just Measures to their
 “ proper End.”

This Speech produced all the Effects
 that could be expected from it, the Person
 who made the Objections was the first to
 declare that he had received ample Satis-
 faction, and that he was very ready and
 willing to concur in any Measures that
 should be judged expedient for carrying this
 Plan into Execution. The rest followed
 his Example, and seemed to speak with so
 much greater Spirit and Warmth, that
 they might efface from the Mind of their
 Chief all Remembrance of that Dejection
 and Confusion they had discovered but a
 little before. Yet I think it may be doubt-
 ed whether the preceding Speech carries in
 it so much of Argument as of Energy,
 and to speak my own Sentiments of it
 freely, I must confess that it appears to
 have

have wrought rather by awakening right Notions in the Minds of its Hearers, than by presenting to their View one of those fair Prospects that might have been painted by the Pencil of Hope. In short, as that Cloud of Objections was thrown like a Veil over the Face of Truth, so as to hide or disguise her Features, the Strength of this Harangue consists in taking it away, and restoring to every Man his first Ideas, which had been darkened and obscured by these Dictates of Fear; neither do I say this with any View of lessening the Eloquence of the Speaker; so far from it, that I hope I have placed it in the true Point of Light. The Power of speaking is a Gift of Nature, and a Man is no more to be admired for being eloquent than for being handsome. In this he shewed his Judgment, that he made a right Use of his Eloquence, and took precisely that Method of treating his Subject, which was convenient in Point of Time, suitable to the Circumstances of Things, and proper to affect his Audience. The true End of Eloquence is to persuade, and he who knows how to cloath his Words in Language that will do this, is an Orator indeed.

When this Design was ripened to a just Maturity, it was resolved to hold a publick Assembly at the old *Doele*, a Place appertaining of right to the Burghers, and where in former Times they were wont to exercise themselves in shooting, now let by the Magistrates for a House of Entertainment, which as it had one very large Room and other good Apartments, was extremely fit for the Purpose. The first Assembly was held there *August* 9, 1748, at which were present a very large Number of Persons, most of them of the middle Sort, and some also of the most considerable Burghers. When the Assembly was pretty full Mr. *Raap* made them a Speech, which as it has been already in Print I shall not transcribe, wherein he informed them of the Causes for which they met, exhorted them to proceed with the greatest Regularity, Decency, and Duty towards the Magistrates, mentioned the Points contained in the Petition, that it was proposed should be presented to the Regency, and finished by insinuating that it would be right to settle a Committee of proper Persons for inquiring into the Privileges and Immunities granted to the Townsmen by their ancient Charter,

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in order to the taking of proper Measures for recovering such of them as were either fallen into Diffuetude, or of which the Citizens had been otherwise deprived. This Speech was universally applauded, and many thousands signed the Petition spontaneously, for there was not the least Compulsion used of any Kind to procure Hands.

This Petition, which was conceived in the most respectful Terms, and in which it was declared that the Citizens meant nothing beyond the Bounds of Right and Justice, and in that Respect submitted all their Demands to the mature Consideration of their Magistrates, insisted on the following Points, which they suggested were absolutely necessary to be immediately granted, for restoring and preserving the publick Tranquillity.

I. That the Revenue arising from the Post-Office of *Amsterdam* be put into the Hands of his Serene Highness the Prince Stadtholder, as has been already done in the other Towns in the Province of *Holland*, in Trust for the Benefit of the Publick,

II. That the scandalous Abuses crept into the Distribution of Offices be redressed without Delay, conformable to the prudent and publick spirited Proposition of his Serene Highness to their noble Mightinesses the States of *Holland* on the 25th of *June* last, grounded upon the Resolutions of their noble Mightinesses themselves, dated *Nov. 11th* 1747, and *Jan 31st* 1748. so that for the future all Offices may be discharged by Citizens resident in *Amsterdam*.

III. That the Burghers be immediately restored to their Privileges, and that particularly they may be at Liberty to chuse the Colonels and Captains of the Militia without Restraint, with a Proviso, that if any of those Officers should afterwards become one of the Regency, his Command may become void.

It is easy to discern that every one of these Demands had no other Tendency than to promote the Welfare of the Province in general, and of the Citizens of *Amsterdam* in particular. The Revenue arising from the Posts being Money actually raised upon the Publick, ought in Equity to be applied

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plied for the publick Service, instead of contributing to the enriching and raising Fortunes for particular Persons; since, in Effect, this was quartering such Persons upon the Publick without Justice or Reason. The second was a Demand perfectly well founded in the Opinion of the Prince Stadtholder, and the States; and the Dates of the Resolutions plainly prove that there was nothing of Hastiness or Impatience in the Burghers, desiring the Redress of Grievances, which their Sovereigns had so long ago acknowledged to be such. The last Demand was calculated to emancipate the Citizens from that unreasonable and unconstitutional Subjection, in which they were held by the Regency, who, by appointing Colonels and Captains, had such an Influence in all Councils of War, that nothing could be decided in them agreeable to the true Sentiments of those they were understood to represent, so that the Burghers were entirely deprived of the Means of expressing their Sense upon any Occasion, or of making a legal Application for the Redress of any Grievances they might at any Time suffer, which was a Thing utterly incon-

inconsistent with the very Notion of their being free.

The Regency published an Edict or Notification on the 11th, in which they exhorted the Inhabitants of the City to remain steady in their Obedience, conformable to the Oath they had taken at the time of their becoming Burghers, and not to listen to the Suggestions of certain Persons, who had assembled themselves at the *Doele*, and had taken Possession there of one or more Apartments against the Will of the Possessors. This Edict had not the Effect that was expected from it. Mr. *Raap* and his Associates presented their Petition, the Burghers continued their Assemblies, and though such Persons of Fortune as came to them at first declined that Practice, yet it was known that they had private Meetings by themselves, in which they acted in concert with the great Meeting, where Mr. *Raap* presided, and directed all Things with the greatest Modesty and Moderation ; in-somuch that Posterity will hardly credit that such a Multitude of Persons of different Humours, Interests, and Inclinations should assemble together for many Days, debate

publick Affairs with the utmost Freedom of Speech, and yet run into no Excesses with Respect to others, or Divisions amongst themselves, either of which had been fatal to them, and had disconcerted all their Schemes.

By the wise Policy of Mr. *Raap* and his Friends, the Measures taken by the Regency for dispersing the Assembly at the *Doele*, proved not only ineffectual, but turned entirely upon themselves ; for on the one Hand the Burghers assembled there demanded Satisfaction, though in very modest Terms, for the false Aspersions that had been thrown upon them in the Edict or Notification beforementioned: They likewise published the Oath taken by the Burghers, and the Explanation thereof in 1618, by the then Regency of *Amsterdam*, from which it appeared, that in their Judgment the Citizens might take any Measures that to them appeared expedient, and were consistent with the Laws, for the Maintenance and Preservation of their Privileges, without any Breach of their Oaths. On the other these Steps not only kept together those who had continued to frequent the Assembly,

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but

but increased their Numbers very considerably, when it appeared that what they did was agreeable to the Constitutions of the City, and that they might resort thither without Danger.

The Magistrates now found it absolutely necessary to give an Answer to the Petition, and accordingly on the 19th of *Aug.* they published that Answer, in which they treated the Assembly at the *Doele* as irregular and tumultuous, Mr. *Raap* and his Associates as very contemptible Fellows, asserted their Claims of governing the City without giving any Account to the Burghers in general, and at length descended to the three Points contained in the Petition. With Respect to the first they said, that their Deputies had frequently conferred upon it with the Prince Stadtholder, and that in all Probability it might be decided in the first Assembly of the States of the Province. They gave much the same Answer as to the second, upon which they owned they had frequently deliberated, and meant to expose the Issue of those Deliberations to the States of the Province ; and as to the third, that the Captains were always chosen by

the Townsmen, and that the Alteration proposed was an absolute Novelty, that the Regency were Burghers also, and that they saw no Cause why they should not enjoy their Commands in the Militia, in Conjunction with their Offices as Magistrates.

The plain Design of this Answer was to gain Time, and the Use they made of that was to labour as much as possible to give an ill Impression of what was transacted at the *Doele* to the Prince Stadtholder, and the States of the Province at the *Hague*. With a View to counter-act this Project, the Assembly of the Citizens at the *Doele* sent Commissioners to the *Hague* likewise, who were instructed to shew the Reasonableness of their Demands, and the Regularity of their Conduct, which left no Room to apprehend any Danger from their Assemblies, or any Fear of Riots, Tumults, or Insurrections; but from the dispersing of that Assembly, and gratifying the Inclinations of the Regency, who were desirous of being maintained in their Authority by Force. It is very certain that the Magistrates ran a very great Risk, in regard to the publick Tranquility, by this manner of Proceeding, and by procuring such Ac-
counts

counts to be inserted in the *German Gazette*, as had a Tendency to destroy the publick Tranquillity, by insinuating, that those who were discontented with their Government, were no better than a Mob that ought to be chastised for their Insolence, rather than gratified in their Pretensions. The contrary of this, however, quickly appeared, as well from the Increase of their Numbers, as from the Firmness and moderate Manner of behaving, notwithstanding these Provocations, which were calculated either to drive them into Divisions or Despair, and which notwithstanding were able to effect neither. On the 24th there was a great Assembly at the *Doele*, in which it was proposed to press the venerable Regency for a direct and a decisive Answer to their late Petition. On the 25th and 26th, those who interested themselves in the Support of this Measure went about the City to sollicit Hands, that the Magistrates might be convinced that they had not to do with a handful of Rabble, as they had given out. On *Monday* the 26th the additional Petition was presented by Mr. *Raap*, and received with great Contempt, the first Burgomaster giving no far-

ther Satisfaction than telling him, they would think of it. Upon reporting this in the Evening at the Assembly of the *Doele*, those who were present began, for the first Time, to lose their Patience, and to talk of coming to Extremities with those who were not to be wrought upon by gentler Measures. Mr. *Raap* did all that lay in his Power to pacify them, offered to attend the Regency again, made use of all his Eloquence to prevent their sacrificing to this Transport of their Passion, that long and laudable Respect which they had shewn for the Interests and Quiet of the City; and at length, tho' not without Difficulty, he carried his Point. The next Day he took care to acquaint the Magistrates with the true Situation of Things, and that their Safety depended upon themselves, and not upon him, who could answer no longer for People they had taken a Pleasure to provoke and insult. This produced several Concessions in different Forms, which did not manifest the greatest Sincerity, and of which the Assembly at the *Doele* had but an indifferent Opinion, knowing that the first Burgomaster, or principal Magistrate, was gone to the *Hague*.

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At length, as indeed it was full time this great Affair was settled, and the Form adjusted for granting the Fiat to the Burghers Petition, in such a manner, as that the Validity of it might never afterwards be drawn in Question; and the necessary Points for this Purpose being settled about one o' Clock on *Wednesday August 28th*, seven or eight of the principal Persons deputed from the Assembly at the *Doele* went to attend the Magistrates at the Town-house, in order to receive their final Resolution upon this Head. They behaved themselves upon this Occasion with all the Modesty and Respect possible, and were now treated with much greater Civility than before, their Petition returned back to them, with the following Answer engrossed thereupon, as had been promised, *viz.*

The noble, grand and venerable, and venerable Council have thought fit to grant the FIAT to this Petition.

Signed by Order of their noble, grand and venerable (Lordships) and of the venerable Council.

John Van Laon Junior, Secretary.

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This Concession satisfied the Burghers, because they were now in a full Persuasion that nothing could unsettle this Grant, and consequently that their own Freedom and the Authority of the Regency stood upon the same Foot. It is certain that this was what Mr. *Raap* meant, who as little designed to depose the Regency, as to suffer it to continue receiving the publick Revenue, distributing all Offices in an arbitrary manner, and taking from their Fellow-Citizens whatever Privileges seemed to be inconsistent with this extravagant Stretch of their Power. But it was quite otherwise with those great Men; they were in Hopes of setting all they had granted aside by a Negotiation at the *Hague*, where they represented themselves as in the most distressed Condition, surrounded by a mutinous Populace, and in Danger every Moment of being torn to Pieces by a Mob, and all this with a View of interesting the Stadtholder and the States in their Quarrel, that the whole Weight and Force of the Republick might be employed in stopping the Mouths of the Burghers, and in supporting them not only in the Possession of that Power which they had held for so many

many Years, but in the Administration of it as they thought proper, without being subject either to Censure or Controul. In this they over-shot themselves, and, as is very common in such Cases, by a Desire of retaining too much, they brought themselves into the Necessity of abandoning all.

Count *Bentinck* arrived the very Day after the Fiat was given to the Burghers Petition, in Quality of Commissioner from the Prince. He was attended by the Deputies the Burghers had sent to solicit their Cause at the *Hague*, and no sooner appeared at *Amsterdam*, but he was complimented on the Part of the Assembly at the *Doele*, and invited to be present at their Meeting, which he very prudently declined. At the same they gave him this Invitation, they signified their Satisfaction in having the Demands contained in their Petition granted, and desired nothing more than to have the Concessions of their Magistrates ratified by the States and his Serene Highness the Prince Stadtholder. The Magistrates likewise applied to the Count, and acquainted him with their Sentiments, who gave both Parties good Words, and exhorted them to behave towards each other with Moderation, and

and promised to make a faithful Report of all that had been represented to him at his Return. He set out the very next Morning for the *Hague*, and carried with him the entire Submission of both Parties to his Serene Highness the Prince Stadtholder, to whose Wisdom and Justice they were willing to leave the Decision of every thing.

It may be easily believed that this untoward Affair made a great Impression upon the wisest and ablest Statesmen in the Provinces, and became in a very particular Manner the Subject of the Deliberations of the States of *Holland*, who very soon saw that the most prudent, the most effectual, and the most speedy Method that could be contrived for extinguishing a Flame that threatened the most dismal Consequences, was to grant his Serene Highness the Prince Stadtholder full Power to settle the Government of *Amsterdam* in such a Manner, as upon mature Deliberation and a full Inquiry into the true State of Facts, his Serene Highness in his great Wisdom should think fit; and to facilitate this Measure, which was now become highly requisite for their own Safety, the Magistrates, under

under Pretence that they were but too sensible of their Authority being become precarious, sent likewise a voluntary Resignation of their Offices to the *Hague*.

On the Return of Count *Bentinck* and his Report of the State of Affairs at *Amsterdam*, his Serene Highness thought it indispensably necessary to go thither, in order to restore, by his Presence, that Order and Tranquillity which was on the very Point of suffering to the last Degree. Accordingly, after conferring with the States of the Province of *Holland*, he set out in the Afternoon of *Sunday September* the first, attended by the Counts *Bentinck* and *Grovenstein*, the Greffier *Fagel*, and Secretary *Back*. His Highness arrived at *Amsterdam* between Ten and Eleven on *Monday Morning*, and was received with the utmost Solemnity. He found the Garrison drawn up at the Gates, all the Carpenters of the Admiralty-Dock, and of the Yards belonging to the *East-India* Company in perfect Order, each with an Orange Cockade in his Hat; the one hundred and twenty Deputies from the Burghers marched two and two, before and after his Coach, bareheaded.

bareheaded. His Highness saluted every Body as he passed, and was conducted to his Lodgings amidst the Acclamations of the People. He was no sooner arrived there than he was complimented on the Part of the Magistrates, the four Burgo-masters receiving him as he came out of his Coach. His Serene Highness received afterwards the Addresses of the Clergy, the Admiralty, the *East-India* Company, &c. and bore not only with the utmost Patience, but also with amazing Chearfulness and good Humour, the inexpressible Fatigues of the Day; and, which is the more extraordinary, behaved himself with such Kindness, Affability and Condescension to every Body, that all Parties seemed to be alike satisfied and content.

What has been hitherto said is sufficient to shew the shining Talents of this Prince, for captivating the Hearts and fixing the Inclinations of a great People. It was not long before he gave as convincing Proofs of still superior Qualities; the Magistrates offered to lay down their Offices immediately upon his Arrival, but this he would not suffer them to do, on the contrary, he desired

fired and directed that all should keep their Posts, declaring that he meant not to remove any Body till after a serious and impartial Enquiry, conformable to the Sentiments of their Noble Mightinesses the States of *Holland*. He not only did this, but much more, for besides treating the Burghmasters and Counsellors with all the Respect due to their Dignities himself, he obliged the Companies of Burghers that did Duty at his Lodgings, to pay them the highest Honours when they came to receive, or when they retired from Audience, such as resting on their Arms, and beating their Drums upon every such Occasion. He spent the whole Week without ever going out, in examining and discussing their Differences, and it was amazing to see with how much Patience he went through such a Load of Business, with what Calmness and Candour he heard all Parties, with what Penetration he formed his Questions, and with what Evenness and Impartiality he conducted his Looks, his Words, and his Actions during five Days, in which it may be truly said, that he had hardly as many Minutes of Repose, except when he went to Bed.

Before

Before we proceed farther it is necessary to observe, that by this Time there was a Division of Councils amongst the Burghers. Mr. *Raap*, who had shewn as much Prudence and Circumspection, as Vigilance, Activity and Spirit in his Proceedings, gave now the strongest Proof of his Integrity, he was for adhering to the Agreement made with the Magistrates, for being steady in the Pursuit of their first Design, and not hazarding all they had obtained by insisting upon more than it was perhaps reasonable to expect. But there started up now a new Tribune of People who was for pushing Things to the utmost, and would be content with nothing less than the Deposition of all the Magistrates, and the Concession of a great Variety of Demands, of which the Reader will have an Account hereafter. This Schism broke out the very Day that Count *Bentinck* left the City, and was chiefly owing to some foolish Reports spread by the Magistrates and their Party, as if they were secure of Support not only from the States, but from a strong Party in the City, insinuating that the Papists, who are very numerous at *Amsterdam*, would rise in Conjunction with the Creatures

tures of the Men in Power in Defence of the Regency. The new Party among the Burghers fell upon a very extraordinary Expedient to quell all Notions of this Sort, for they engaged all the Carpenters and other Workmen in the Yards to appear on their Behalf, and made them parade through the principal Streets of the City for two Days together, but without committing the least Act of Violence, and only that by this Shew of their Strength their Enemies might be intimidated ; and this had so good an Effect that the Peace of the City was pretty well preserved to the time of his Serene Highness's Arrival.

As the Prince Stadtholder gave free Audience to all Parties, and professed himself not only disposed but desirous to hear what they had to offer, and to examine into the Nature of their Demands, that he might be the better able to answer the Ends of his coming, and to establish the future Government and Peace of the City upon a lasting Foundation ; two Deputies from the new Party at the *Doele* had an Audience of his Highness amongst the rest, and had the Honour of presenting him the

F following

following Memorial of what they judged requisite to be granted for the Safety and Security of the Burghers.

‘ Upon this Occasion of the gracious
 ‘ Presence of your Serene Highness in this
 ‘ City of *Amsterdam*, the Burghers and In-
 ‘ habitants thereof, earnestly desirous of seeing
 ‘ its Tranquillity restored, not for the pre-
 ‘ sent only, but so as that it may be per-
 ‘ manent even to latest Times, take the Li-
 ‘ berty of addressing and of confiding in your
 ‘ Serene Highness, most humbly beseeching
 ‘ you to receive on their Behalf, and to con-
 ‘ sider maturely the following Articles, which
 ‘ they have the Honour to present with all
 ‘ the Respect and Veneration possible.

I. “ We beseech your Serene Highness
 “ to interpose so far as to procure, that
 “ after the Example of the other Towns
 “ of the Province, the Duties and Im-
 “ posts in this City of *Amsterdam* may be
 “ abolished, and that the Loss which the
 “ City may receive thereby may be re-
 “ placed, by appropriating thereto part of
 “ the Sums that shall arise from the new
 “ Tax, which it is proposed shall be
 “ established

“ established instead of the Duties before-
 “ mentioned.

II. “ That it may please your Serene
 “ Highness to procure as soon as possible
 “ the most effectual Redress in the respec-
 “ tive Colleges of the Admiralty of this
 “ Country, with regard to the Duties in-
 “ ward and outward, Convoys, Licences, &c.
 “ in such a Manner that in all the other Pro-
 “ vinces, and more especially in *Zealand*, the
 “ new Regulation may be perfectly uniform,
 “ so that by this Means no one Province or
 “ City whatever may have an Advantage
 “ over any other Province or City in re-
 “ spect to their Commerce.

III. “ That it may please your Serene
 “ Highness to dismiss, with Thanks for
 “ their Services, the thirty six Counsellors of
 “ this City, the Hoff Schout (Grand Bai-
 “ liff or first Magistrate) the Ecoutout,
 “ the Burgomasters, the Echevins, the
 “ Pensionary, and Secretaries, as also all
 “ at present in the Service of the several
 “ Colleges, &c. and to substitute in their
 “ Rooms such Persons as your Serene
 “ Highness, in your great Wisdom, shall

“ think most capable, worthy, and useful
 “ to this City, and best affected to the
 “ common Good of the Burghers and
 “ Inhabitants.

IV. “ That for the future, at every
 “ Election that shall be made of Burgo-
 “ masters, there shall be a double Nomi-
 “ nation subject to the Will of your Serene
 “ Highness, to prevent all future Disputes,
 “ Disorders, and intestine Troubles.

V. “ That the Office of Hoff Schout
 “ to this City shall be for the present, and
 “ hereafter, ever left to the Appointment
 “ of your Serene Highness and your Suc-
 “ cessors of both Sexes, to be conferred on
 “ the Person most capable, of the fairest
 “ Character, and most proper to contribute
 “ to the Good of this City, and that he
 “ may continue in the Exercise of his Of-
 “ fice until your Highness, or your Suc-
 “ cessors, shall see fit to remove him from
 “ that high Employment.

VI. “ That for the future none of the
 “ thirty six Counsellors of this City shall
 “ be capable of the Post of Hoff Schout,
 I Burgomaster,

“ Burgomaster or Echevin, before he has
 “ previously resigned the Employment of
 “ Counsellor ; and that such Person be of
 “ the full Age required by Law ; and that
 “ in respect to this as well as the precedent
 “ Articles, a serious Attention be had to
 “ Consanguinity, and that every Thing be
 “ done in a Manner agreeable to the Privi-
 “ leges of the Citizens.

VII. “ That it may please your Serene
 “ Highness to dismiss immediately the Co-
 “ lonels and Captains of the Burghers,
 “ thanking them for their Services ; that
 “ for the present, and for ever hereafter,
 “ each Quarter of the City may have the
 “ Liberty of choosing its proper Captain ;
 “ and that by these Captains so chosen,
 “ (together with the Lieutenants and En-
 “ signs, who form the Council of War)
 “ out of their own Body, and amongst
 “ themselves, a double Nomination may
 “ be made of five Colonels ; and that out
 “ of the ten so named, five of the best
 “ qualified and most faithful shall be cho-
 “ sen by your Serene Highness, to fill the
 “ Posts of Colonel, and that in this Point

“ due Attention be had to Family and
 “ Consanguinity, &c.

“ Lastly, we humbly pray that the three
 “ Articles contained in the Petition of the
 “ Burghers, presented to the Burgomasters
 “ and Echevins, and approved by their
 “ Fiat, may be confirmed and effectually
 “ supported by your Serene Highness. In
 “ doing which, &c.

Upon reviewing the several Articles contained in this Memorial, the Reader will easily discern, that the great Thing aimed at is, the Subversion of the System, which had for many Years prevailed, and by which the Government of the City of *Amsterdam* was become an Oligarchy. To this is to be referred the great Strefs that is laid upon dismissing all without Exception that were in Office, which alone would take away that Evil for the present, and the Cautions with Respect to Family and Consanguinity are calculated to prevent any Evil of this Sort for the future ; to which also the Dismissing of the Captains, and the Alterations in the Manner of their Choice is also to be referred. For while
 the

the Regency were secure of sixty Votes in the Council of War, it was an easy Thing for them, by Dint of their extensive Influence, to procure and maintain a constant Majority ; and thus they were without any Check or Controul, the Burghers being without any Representative in fact ; whereas the Council of War being free, their Resolutions would always shew the true Sense of the City in general. Neither can it be doubted, that in the Reason of Things every Part of a free Government ought to be free ; but on the other hand, as absolute Freedom might be productive of perpetual Disputes upon trivial Points, which might also be dangerous to the Government, therefore the several Nominations are reserved to the Prince Stadtholder, to balance that Inconvenience. If it should be inquired, whether some Doubt might not arise as to the Influence this may create in Favour of the Stadtholder, it is to be considered, that Perfection cannot be attained in any Kind of Government, but that there is less Hazard in such a Regulation than at first appears, will be plain from this Reflection ; that in all the Branches of the Government, it is the Appointment

only that belongs to the Stadtholder, and the Nomination is reserved to the Citizens ; so that while they are true to their own Interests, his Power cannot prevail ; and to preserve the Freedom of Men, determined to sacrifice it, is a direct Absurdity ; so that if the Liberty of the City is provided for, as long as the Citizens are willing and capable of being free, it is all that can be wished for or expected. But whether such a thorough Reformation as this ought, in the present Circumstances of Things, to be attempted, was a Question of another Nature ; and the Question that his Serene Highness in his great Wisdom was to decide. If that was to be undertaken, these were suggested as the proper Means ; but whether it was to be undertaken or not, remained in the Breast of the Prince. He was also to consider what Sort of People they were, by whom this Regulation was proposed, and how far he was to look upon their Desires as the Sense of the Commonalty of the City of *Amsterdam*.

His Serene Highness left no Means untried to make himself absolutely Master of the whole Dispute, and of the Merits and Mistakes,

Mistakes, not only of all the several Facti-
 ons, but of the several Persons who had
 the chief Direction of them ; at length,
 after serious Meditation on the properest
 Means for composing all Differences, for
 gratifying as far as Justice and Equity
 would allow all Parties, and for establish-
 ing the Government in such a Manner, as
 might convince every worthy Citizen that
 he had been conducted by no other Princi-
 ple, than that of providing for the publick
 Tranquillity ; he resolved to make confi-
 derable Changes in the Regency, and ac-
 cordingly on *Friday, September* the 6th, he
 directed his Letter for this Purpose to the
Hoff Schout, Mr. *Daniel de Dieu*, an Ac-
 count of which was the very next Day
 made publick for the Satisfaction of the
 Burghers, and ran thus.

“ As it has pleased his Serene Highness
 “ the Lord Prince of *Orange* and *Nassau*,
 “ Hereditary Stadtholder of this Province,
 “ to cause to be transmitted to the Lords,
 “ Burgomasters, and Regents of this City of
 “ *Amsterdam*, his most honoured Letter
 “ written at *Amsterdam* on the 6th In-
 “ stant ; by which he hath given them to
 “ understand,

“ understand, that his said Serene Highness
 “ having made the utmost Efforts to remove
 “ in the best Manner, with all the Discretion
 “ possible, and the most proper Means, the
 “ Diffidence and Discontent the good Burg-
 “ hers and Inhabitants had entertained a-
 “ gainst the Lords Regents, and to unite and
 “ reconcile the Minds of the Lords Regents,
 “ and those of the said Burghers and Inha-
 “ bitants ; but finding all these Efforts inef-
 “ fectual, to the no small Regret of his
 “ Serene Highness, there remained no other
 “ Way in the present troublesome and per-
 “ plexed Situation of Affairs, and for the
 “ preventing still greater Calamities, than to
 “ make use of the Authority granted to
 “ him, the Lord Prince Hereditary Stadt-
 “ holder, by the Resolution of their No-
 “ ble and Great Mightinesses, of the 31st
 “ of *August* in the present Year ; as also
 “ of the voluntary Offer of their Resigna-
 “ tion, made by the Lords, Burgomasters,
 “ and Counsellors mentioned more at large
 “ in the Resolution aforesaid ; and in Con-
 “ formity to which, his Serene Highness
 “ hath resolved, that the four Lords, Bur-
 “ gomasters now reigning, and the thirty-
 “ five Counsellors (one of the thirty-six
 “ being dead) all be discharged from
 “ the ir

“ their Regency, and their Oath, without
 “ Detriment in any Manner to the Honour
 “ and Reputation of the said Lords, Bur-
 “ gomasters and Counsellors, inasmuch as
 “ there is not the least Room to suspect
 “ that they have not duly acquitted them-
 “ selves in the Execution of their Offices,
 “ and declaring farther, that his said Serene
 “ Highness is at all Times ready, if con-
 “ trary to Expectation there should any Ne-
 “ cessity arise to grant to the said Lord Re-
 “ gents so discharged, what ever Protection
 “ or Safeguard they shall think fit to desire,
 “ for their Persons, Families and Effects.

“ And as it has further pleased his said
 “ Serene Highness, in Virtue of the before-
 “ mentioned Resolution of their noble and
 “ great Mightinesses of the 31st of *August*
 “ last, to name for Burgomasters, my Lord
 “ *Ferdinand van Collen*, Lord of *Gunter-*
 “ *stein* and *Tbienhoven*, my Lord *Cornelius*
 “ *Trip*, Baron of old and new *Goudrian*,
 “ *Langersk*, &c. my Lord *Gerard Arnold*
 “ *Hasselaar*, and my Lord *William Gideon*
 “ *Deutz*: and for Counsellors, my Lords
 “ *Gerad Bicker van Swieten*, Mr. *Corne-*
 “ *lius Hop*, *Peter Six*, *Daniel de Dieu*,
 “ *Peter*

“ *Peter Rondorp, Egbert de Vry, Tem-*
 “ *mink Herman van Ghesel, Bonaventure*
 “ *Oetgens van Waveren, Walter Peter Bou-*
 “ *daan, Jacob van Siryen, Ferdinand van*
 “ *Collen, Gerard Arnold Hasselaar, Franeis*
 “ *de Wit, Gerard Hooft, Peter de la Court,*
 “ *Elias Schellinger, John Huydecoper, Da-*
 “ *niel Deutz, John Baptist Slicher, Corne-*
 “ *lius Backer, John Calkoen, John Graaf-*
 “ *land, William Huyghens, Henry Ter*
 “ *Smitten, Peter van Tarelink, Arnold*
 “ *van der Waayen, Michael Bruyningh,*
 “ *John Agges Scholten, John Nicholas van*
 “ *Eys, Dennis Muilman, Frederick van*
 “ *Marcelis, Charles Linslager, Volgert van*
 “ *Jever, George Clifford junior, John*
 “ *Balde junior, and Matthias Straalman.*

“ The whole agreeable to a List sent in
 “ a Letter sealed and directed by his said Se-
 “ rene Highness to Mr. *Daniel de Dieu,*
 “ *Hoff Schout* of this City, dated the 6th
 “ of this Month, with Orders to the said
 “ *Hoff Schout* to cause the Oath to be law-
 “ fully administred to the said Lords, Bur-
 “ gomasters, and Counsellors, and to in-
 “ stal them in their respective Offices, as
 “ was accordingly done in Consequence,
 “ and

“ and agreeable to the much respected Or-
 “ ders of his Serene Highness.

“ For these Causes the beforementioned
 “ Lords, Burgomasters, and Regents of the
 “ City of *Amsterdam*, with the Advice of
 “ the beforementioned thirty six Lords,
 “ Counsellors, thought it their indispensable
 “ Duty to give proper Notice of all that is
 “ abovementioned to the good Burghers and
 “ People of this City, that all and every
 “ one may be thereof informed. Done at
 “ *Amsterdam Sep. 7th 1748.*

Signed, *James Van de Poll.*

By this wise and prudent Regulation, his
 Highness shewed his great Candour and Im-
 partiality for the major Part of these, that
 is to say, nineteen were of the whole Coun-
 cil, and of the seventeen new Members six
 were taken from amongst the Deputies of
 the Merchants, so that all Parties had the
 greatest Reason to be satisfied, and to ac-
 knowledge the Moderation and Justice of
 the Stadtholder. On the *Sunday* following
 he went to the new Church where the Ma-
 gistrates were also present, and dined every
 Day

Day of that Week with some Person of Distinction in the City. The very same Day that the new Magistrates were installed in their Office, Mr. Raap, at the Head of the hundred and twenty Deputies from the Burghers, went to compliment them, and to assure them, as he did in a very short and modest Speech, of their intire Satisfaction in respect to his Serene Highness's Choice, and of their constant Reverence and Submission.

As there were still a great many Things to be regulated, and as these could not be regulated without Trouble, his Serene Highness's Thoughts were much occupied, and a great Part of his Time taken up in making the necessary Enquiries for his Direction in those Affairs. On the tenth, after mature Reflection, he caused the following Order to be published for modelling the Council of War, so as to preserve its Independency, and satisfy all reasonable Persons.

“ As it appears to his Highness from all
 “ that he is able to collect from different
 “ Quarters, that it would be extreamly
 “ difficult, if not impossible, to make, with
 “ Regard to the Council of War of this
 “ City,

“ City, such Alterations as might be equal-
 “ ly agreeable to every Body, his Highness,
 “ after having taken upon this Subject the
 “ Advice of the Lords Burgomasters, judg-
 “ es, that for the Preservation of the Tran-
 “ quillity of this City, and to give as much
 “ Satisfaction as it is possible to the good
 “ Burghers, it will be most convenient,

“ That an independent Council of War
 “ be held, composed of Captains, Lieute-
 “ nants and Ensigns.

“ That each Company shall chuse for
 “ that Effect, by the Majority of Votes, such
 “ Officers as they shall think fit to form this
 “ Council.

“ That these Captains, Lieutenants and
 “ Ensigns, so chosen by each Company as
 “ afore said, shall afterwards name five Co-
 “ lonels, and shall fill up the Places of the
 “ Captains, Lieutenants and Ensigns that
 “ were not agreeable to their Companies,
 “ or they shall make a double Nomination,
 “ and present the same to his Highness, in
 “ Order for him to name who shall succeed

“ to the Officers that are so dismissed. Done
“ at *Amsterdam* Sept. 10th 1748.

Signed,

The Prince of *Orange* and *Nassau*.

By his Highness's Order

John de Back.”

On *Friday* the 13th of *September* his Serene Highness accepted an Invitation from the Magistracy, and dined with them at the Town-house, upon which Occasion the High-Bailiff, Mr. *de Dieu*, the four Burgoasters, Regent, all the Echevins, two Deputies from the Council, one of the Pensionaries, and many other Persons of Distinction had the Honour of dining at the same Table with his Highness, who was conducted thither from the Place of his Residence by three Companies of Burghers, who remained upon Guard all the while his Serene Highness was at the Town-house, and reconducted him at his Return amidst the Acclamations of many thousands of Spectators. Four of the old Eschevins, viz. Messieurs *Bernard de Wilhem*, *Jacob Gerard Carsseboom*, *Henry Hooft Gerritsz* and *Henry Bikker*, having desired

ed their Dismission, his Highness readily granted it, and appointed the four following Persons to succeed them, viz. Mr. *Elias Schellinger*, *John Nicholas Van Eys*, *Matthias Straalman* and *Daniel Hogguer*. His Serene Highness likewise named Mr. *Gerard Bicker Van Swieten* Lord of *Swieten*, Mr. *Egbert de Vry Temminck*, and Mr. *Jonas Witsen*, the first to have a Seat in the Council of the Deputies to the States of the Province, the second in the College of the Admiralty of *Amsterdam*, and the third in the Chamber of Accounts in the Place of Messieurs *Solomon Dedel*, *Nicholas Geelvink* Lord of *Castricum*, and *Andrew Munter*. The same Day forty-eight of the old Burgomasters and Eschevins, who by their having passed through those Offices had acquired certain Privileges and Prerogatives, were dismissed and absolved from the Oath taken at their Admission to their respective Offices. Thus his Serene Highness kept the middle Path, and laboured at the same time to convince such as had been for many Years in Power, that he had no Prejudice whatever to their Persons, nor any Inclination to make use of the present Conjunction to humble, much

less to oppress them ; and to shew the Burghers in general that he meant to give them absolute Satisfaction in all things that were consistent with the Constitution and Government of the City.

His Highness received all the Applications that were made to him with equal Affability and Condescension, heard every thing that was proposed with the utmost Patience, and after the most mature Deliberation took and executed his own Resolutions with the greatest Calmness and Steadiness imaginable. As for the eighteen Deputies from the Merchants, they were the only Persons to whom he shewed a more than ordinary Attention and Respect ; and, upon their asking his Permission, when they took leave of him, to address themselves to his Serene Highness in case their Affairs at any time should require it, he was pleased to add, to the very strong Assurances he had before given them, the following gracious Expressions. The Traders of this City are always at Liberty to address themselves to me freely either in a publick Manner, or by Deputation, when that appears to them requisite, or separately and privately,

ly, when that is more suitable. I shall always look upon the Time as well employed that is spent with them; and nothing will give me greater Pleasure than to be able in any Manner to promote their Commerce. His Highness had before given them the strongest Proof of his Sincerity, by the Respect paid them in the Nomination of the new Magistrates.

It may be expected that some Notice should be taken of Mr. *Raap's* Conduct at this Time. It was indeed so extraordinary that it deserves to be taken notice of. He caused Illuminations and Rejoicings to be made at his House upon his Serene Highness's Arrival at *Amsterdam*, and he continued these during all the time of his Highness's Residence there. He had several Audiences, and met with a gracious Reception, but was very far from assuming any kind of Merit, and farther still from presuming to offer any thing beyond the Instructions he received from the Burghers, or attempting to distinguish himself otherwise than by shewing a Willingness to contribute, as far as in him lay, to pacifying the Heats that reigned among

the People, and to engage them in a dutiful Submission to the Settlement which his Serene Highness intended, pursuant to the Power granted, and the Instructions given by the States.

On the 14th the new Council of War was chosen, in respect to which there was more Disturbance than about any other thing, that had been during the Residence of his Serene Highness at *Amsterdam*. For out of the five Regiments, *viz.* the *Orange*, the *Yellow*, the *Blue*, the *White*, and the *Green*, each consisting of twelve Companies, there were but four Companies that were content to keep their old Officers. It is true the Friends to the old System complained of much Disturbance, and many Irregularities in the new Election; that they were insulted and terrified in the Night by Persons who assembled about their Doors, and threatned them in Case of any Opposition. There is no doubt on the one hand, that all this was directly contrary to his Serene Highness's Desire and Design; and there is no Doubt too, that these Disturbances, or, to speak with greater Propriety, the Report of these Disturbances were very much exaggerated.

aggerated. But however, taking them as stated, there was nothing either very strange, or very inexcusable in People's trespassing a little upon Decency ; for that is all that is pretended in Reference to those who in their Opinions had trespassed for so many Years upon their Liberties. Such small Excesses will happen in all Cases of this Nature, and one may truly wonder, that greater did not happen on the Occasion. However, as we shall see hereafter, his Serene Highness did not fail to take Notice of these by the Placard which he published in Confirmation of the Proceedings of this Council of War, and their Choice of the five following Gentlemen for their Colonels, Messieurs *Cornelius Weyer Broeck, Jacob Elies, James Dupeyron Jansz, Henry Stadlander* and *Gedeon Victor*, it may not be amiss to observe, that the Burghers made use of the Privileges granted them by his Serene Highness's Letter dated *September 10th*, and made a direct Choice of all their Officers so as to secure in the Council of War a true Representative of their own Body, the want of which could alone justify their assembling at the *Doele*. This Remark will serve to explain several Pas-

sages in the following Paper, which, in Point of Sentiment, Prudence and Dignity, may pass for a Master-piece, and will remain a standing Monument of the Wisdom, Spirit, and Steadiness of that great and good Prince, by whom it is signed, and who left it as his Act and Deed with the Citizens of *Amsterdam*.

“ *William Charles Henry Friso*, by the
 “ Grace of God Prince of *Orange and Nassau*,
 “ Count of *Catzenelbogen, Vianden, Dietz, Speigelberg, Buren and Leerdam*,
 “ Marquis of *Tere Veere and Flushing*,
 “ Baron of *Breda*, of the Town of
 “ *Grave*, and of the Country of *Cuyk*
 “ *d'Ysselstein, Cranendonk, Eindhoven and*
 “ *Liesveld*, Lord of *Breedervoord, Turnhout*,
 “ *St. Gertrudenberg, Willemstadt, St. Martensdyk, Clundert*, Upper and Lower
 “ *Zwaluwe, Zevenbergen, Steenbergen*,
 “ *Grimbergue, Herstal, St. Vith, Arlay*,
 “ *Noseray, Butgenback, Daasbourg and*
 “ *Warnenton*, Hereditary Burgrave of
 “ *Antwerp*, and *Bezançon*, Hereditary
 “ Marshal of *Holland*, Hereditary Stadtholder, Captain General and Admiral of
 “ the *United Provinces*, and Knight of
 “ the

“ the most noble Order of the Garter,
 “ To all to whom these Presents shall
 “ come, maketh known,

“ That the good Burghers, and Inha-
 “ bitants of the Town of *Amsterdam*, hav-
 “ ing besought Us to grant them a Council
 “ of War free and independent, and to
 “ name for that Purpose, the Members
 “ which ought to compose it, and to put
 “ at their Head five Colonels, we have ma-
 “ turely deliberated on the Means most
 “ proper and convenient for satisfying es-
 “ sentially the Intentions and Desire of
 “ the good Commonality of the said Ci-
 “ ty, without injuring the Privileges and
 “ the fundamental Laws of the said Pro-
 “ vince in general, as well as the Pre-emi-
 “ nences and Prerogatives of the Council
 “ of War in particular, as it was granted
 “ them in its first Establishment, which
 “ was almost as old as that of the Repub-
 “ lick itself, the whole being amongst the
 “ Number of those things which we
 “ have solemnly sworn to maintain and
 “ support.

“ That during our Deliberations upon
 “ this important Affair, we have remark-
 “ ed with Regret, that some evil-minded
 “ Persons have instilled into the good
 “ Burghers and Inhabitants, false Ideas of
 “ the Nature of a Council of War free
 “ and independent, which being day by
 “ day insinuated more and more, have
 “ taken so deep Root, that it has given
 “ Occasion to the making Demands so
 “ absurd, that if they were granted, so
 “ far from satisfying the real Intentions,
 “ or fulfilling effectually the Desires of
 “ the worthy Townsmen, that on the
 “ contrary they would be a manifest In-
 “ fraction on the Privileges, and would
 “ bring about a total Destruction of the
 “ ancient Rights and lawful Pre-eminen-
 “ ces of the Council of War, and also of
 “ that Liberty and Independency, which
 “ they have demanded, we would be plea-
 “ sed to grant to the said Council of War.

“ That all these Circumstances have in-
 “ duced us, instead of deciding the Affair
 “ in a Manner contrary to so many false
 “ Notions, to propose an Expedient for pa-
 “ cifying

“ cifying the worthy Townsmen, as we
 “ have already done by our Declaration of
 “ the tenth of this Month, bearing in Sub-
 “ stance, that the Officers, agreeable to the
 “ Townsmen, should hold a Council of
 “ War, free and independent for filling up
 “ the Places of the Officers who were dis-
 “ agreeable to them, as also for electing
 “ five Colonels, or for the Nomination of
 “ double that Number of Persons, and
 “ presenting us the List of their Names,
 “ to the End that we might have chosen
 “ those that we thought proper ; the whole
 “ with a View, and from the just Expecta-
 “ tion that this provisional Settlement would
 “ have given abundant Room to the wor-
 “ thy Townsmen to be satisfied, and have
 “ afforded Time for Mens Minds to cool ;
 “ so that at length they might consider
 “ Things with an impartial Eye, without
 “ Prejudice and in their true Situation.

“ But to our great Regret we have
 “ found, that notwithstanding our continual
 “ Care, and the Pains that we ourselves
 “ have taken to direct all Things for the
 “ best, the Event has by no Means an-
 “ swered our upright Intention, either with
 “ Regard

“ Regard to the holding a Council of War,
 “ free and independent, conformable to our
 “ declared Design, or in respect to that
 “ Change so much wished for, and hoped
 “ in the Disposition of the Peoples Minds.

“ Seeing that with Respect to the first,
 “ in chusing the Members who ought to
 “ compose the said Council of War, there
 “ has not been left in many Quarters and
 “ Companies to the Burghers, and those
 “ that contribute to the Companies that
 “ intire Liberty which they ought to
 “ have had, of declaring according to their
 “ Inclination ; but on the contrary they
 “ have been intimidated, and after an im-
 “ posing Manner obliged to regulate their
 “ Choice according to the Fancy, and the
 “ good Pleasure of those who have dared
 “ to commit such Disorders.

“ That they have thought fit to take
 “ Commissions from Officers, whom their
 “ Companies have declared to be agreeable
 “ to them, and who had already in that
 “ Quality assisted at the Deliberations of
 “ the Council of War.

“ That

“ That farther still some Quarters and
 “ Companies that had declared, that all
 “ their Officers were disagreeable to them,
 “ and who, consequently, had no body they
 “ could charge to assist at a Council of
 “ War, have taken upon themselves to
 “ name directly other Officers, and to pre-
 “ sent these Nominations to the Council of
 “ War.

“ That by this irregular Manner of act-
 “ ing, they have deprived a great Number
 “ of Members who ought to have compo-
 “ sed the said Council of War, of the Fa-
 “ culty and Power of making, according to
 “ our Intention publicly declared, a free
 “ Choice of Persons they judged the most
 “ proper, and the most capable of filling
 “ the Posts of the Officers that were not
 “ agreeable to their Companies, which has
 “ given Occasion more than once to se-
 “ veral of the most distinguished Members
 “ of the Council of War to complain, that
 “ the Freedom of their Deliberations, and
 “ their Choice had been hindered and di-
 “ sturbed.

“ That

“ That in Reference to the second Point,
 “ we have heard with very deep Concern,
 “ and at the same Time with the utmost
 “ Indignation, that some evil-minded Per-
 “ sons have continued their wicked Prac-
 “ tices to mislead the worthy Townsmen;
 “ to intimidate them by strong Menaces,
 “ which deserve to be severely punished,
 “ and to circulate all Sorts of seditious
 “ Reports in order to excite Diffidence,
 “ and to create Disunion among the Bur-
 “ ghers; from whence, if the Minds of
 “ Men were once sharpened and embitter-
 “ ed, there could be nothing expected but
 “ extreme Confusion, and such dreadful
 “ Mischiefs as might threaten with total
 “ Ruin, both the City and the Republick.

“ That tho’ it evidently appears from
 “ all this, that-in very many Respects they
 “ have not observed and followed, as they
 “ ought to have done, our declared inten-
 “ tion as well with regard to the Nomina-
 “ tion, of the Members who were to assist
 “ at the said Council of War, as with Re-
 “ ference to that Liberty which ought to
 “ have reigned in their Deliberations; ne-
 “ vertheless, in order to give to the whole
 “ Body

“ Body of the Burghers a most signal
 “ Proof of our Affection, and of our sin-
 “ cere and paternal Condescension, we
 “ have been very willing to approve, as by
 “ these Presents we do approve, the Elec-
 “ tion made by the said Council of War,
 “ of five Colonels, and of other Officers
 “ in the Room of those who were de-
 “ clared not to be agreeable to their re-
 “ spective Companies ; and that farther we
 “ have thought fit to ordain and confirm,
 “ as by these Presents we do ordain and
 “ confirm, the said five Colonels and other
 “ Officers lately elected, so that they, in
 “ Conjunction with those that remain in
 “ Commission, shall form the Council of
 “ War, but in such a Manner that the
 “ said Council of War shall not assemble
 “ without previous Notice given to the
 “ Lords Burgomasters, and when it shall
 “ be convened by the Colonels to whom
 “ it shall be absolutely left to judge, if
 “ the Council of War ought to be con-
 “ vened or not, that the said Council of
 “ War shall for the present, and for ever,
 “ have the Right of deliberating freely upon
 “ such Matters as belong thereto, and that
 “ the said Council of War shall be also at
 “ Liberty

“ Liberty upon the Vacancy of the Posts
 “ of Colonels, or other Officers, to elect
 “ and establish such others conformable to
 “ the Privileges and antient Constitutions,
 “ Rules and Usages, as they shall think fit,
 “ for the common Advantage and Welfare
 “ of the City.

“ That being farther willing to preserve
 “ invariably the paternal Care and Affec-
 “ tion that we have for the worthy Burghers
 “ and Inhabitants of this City, we are
 “ willing also for this Time, to forget and
 “ pass by all the Disorders that have been
 “ committed, and have been brought to our
 “ Knowledge, as well as those that have
 “ happened otherwise and elsewhere.

“ And as we have endeavoured to give
 “ thereby in all Respects to the good
 “ Burghers and Inhabitants of the said City
 “ all possible Satisfaction, so far as the same
 “ could be given without any Infringement
 “ of the Privileges of the City, and with-
 “ out Violation of the solemn Oath that
 “ we have taken, we ourselves also expect
 “ on the Part of the good Townsmen and
 “ Inhabitants, that they shall hereafter be-
 “ have

“ have themselves all and every one of
 “ them as becomes good and obedient
 “ Burghers and Townsmen, as well in re-
 “ gard to what concerns our present serious
 “ and good Intentions, as generally in all
 “ that concerns their Duty, and more espe-
 “ cially in whatever relates to that Respect
 “ and Submission which they owe to their
 “ lawful Magistrates.

“ We are moreover willing to exhort and
 “ admonish in the most serious and cordial
 “ Manner, all and every one of them with-
 “ out Distinction, and we do exhort and
 “ admonish them by these Presents to se-
 “ parate themselves immediately, and to
 “ abstain from all publick Assemblies under
 “ what Name or Pretence soever, enjoin-
 “ ing also particularly those who have been
 “ deputed from the severall Quarters and
 “ Companies of Burghers, to regard from
 “ this Moment their said Commissions and
 “ every thing of the like Nature as expired,
 “ under Pain to those who shall be found
 “ to act contrary to our present serious
 “ Resolution and Intention, and who shall
 “ be guilty of any Enterprize contrary to
 “ the Dignity of the Regency, or of the
 “ least

“ least Disobedience to their Orders, that they
 “ shall be punished according to the Exigen-
 “ cy of the Case, and conformable to the
 “ Laws of this Country without any Con-
 “ nivance, as Disturbers of the publick
 “ Peace, and Contemners of our salutary
 “ Orders and Intentions, to serve for an
 “ Example to others.

“ And to the End that no Person may
 “ plead Ignorance, these Presents shall be
 “ published and affixed in the usual Man-
 “ ner, and in the usual Places.” Given
 at *Amsterdam*, Sept. 15th 1748.

Signed,

(L. S.) The Prince of Orange and Nassau.

Lower,

By Order of his Serene Highness,

Countersigned,



John de Back.

F I N I S.

